

Based on the nature of the Proposed Alternative, there are no Indian Trust Assets or Environmental Justice concerns in the project area that could be potentially affected by the Proposed Alternative.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

5.1 Commitments:

Any additional future use of Project Water for M&I purposes not addressed by this EA including any Minor Uses water totaling greater than the 2,000 af as described in the proposed Contract and any Third-Party Contracts for greater than the initial 1,000 af as described in the proposed contract, will require additional NEPA compliance. The District will not take any actions through the proposed Contract which are not in conformance with the NEPA document for the proposed Contract without additional NEPA compliance.

If a water lease involves construction of a new diversion facility and/or improvements to an existing diversion facility on the Pine River, there are potential impacts to historic resources. Those proposed undertakings, once identified, would undergo standard cultural resources review under applicable laws and policies. Since the area(s) of potential impact are rather small, it is anticipated impacts will be avoided or minimized in the event that historic properties are identified. The review would be limited to the diversion facility itself, since as stated earlier, neither distribution of water nor approval of water use is a part of the Proposed Alternative.

6. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Environmental scoping for the proposed Contract was conducted during the summer of 2005. Requests for input were mailed to various organizations and levels of government and a public scoping meeting was held on August 4, 2005 in the project area. Appendix D contains a summary of comments received.

Overall there were questions and diverse opinions and statements concerning the effect of the proposed contract on irrigated agriculture, on growth, about the geographic area for water use, about changes in streamflows, and about costs of water. Input was also received on the need for reliable and safe domestic water supplies.

Availability of this draft EA has been announced through news releases and letters of notice of availability were mailed to the following list:

Elected Representatives

Ken Salazar, U.S. Senator
Wayne Allard U.S. Senator
John Salazar, U.S. Representative
Jim Isgar, State of Colorado
Mark Larson, State of Colorado

Indian Tribes

Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
Navajo Nation
Jicarilla Apache Nation

Local Agencies and Organizations

Mayor, Town of Bayfield
Mayor, City of Durango
Town of Pagosa Springs
Archuleta County
Town of Ignacio
La Plata County Commissioners
Vallecito Chamber of Commerce
Los Pinos Ditch
Sullivan Ditch
Meyers Asher Ditch
Wommer Ditch
King and Morrison Ditch
Forest Lakes Metro District
Bennet-Meyers Ditch
Pine River Irrigation District
Southwestern Water Conservation District
San Juan RC&D
Florida Water Conservancy District
Island Ditch
Farrell Ditch
Higbee Ditch
Dunham Ditch
Catlin Ditch
Revival Ditch
Spring Creek Ditch
Schroeder Ditch
Pine River Canal
Morrison Consolidated Ditch
Trout Unlimited, Boulder CO
Trout Unlimited, Durango CO
San Juan Citizens Alliance, Durango CO

Media

Southern Ute Drum
Durango Herald
Pine River Times
Durango Telegraph
Pagosa Springs Sun
Daily Times, Farmington NM
KDGO / KISZ RADIO
KSUT Radio
Four Corners Broadcasting

Federal and State Agencies

Park Manager, Navajo State Park
Colorado Water Conservation Board, Denver CO
State Historic Preservation Officer, Denver CO
Colorado Division of water Resources, Durango CO
Colorado Division of Wildlife, Durango and Montrose CO
Fish and Wildlife Service, Grand Junction CO and Albuquerque, NM

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation,
Washington, D.C.

Individuals

James Walker, Arboles CO
Burnie Gurule, Bayfield CO
Jerry Cook, Bayfield CO
Dave Brown, Bayfield CO
Ron Newby, Bayfield CO
John Carroll, Bayfield CO
Dirk Nelson, Bayfield CO
Marian Tone, Bayfield CO
Jim Anesi, Durango CO
Erick Aune, Durango CO
Tom Brossia, Durango CO
Win Wright, Durango CO
Robbie and Karen Davis, Ignacio CO
Chuck Sullivan, Ignacio CO
Daniel Weaver, Ignacio CO
Wayne and Cindy Wiebe, Ignacio CO
Gerald Pfeffer, Ignacio CO
Lewis Luchini, Ignacio CO
Tom Conway, Ignacio CO
Steve Summy, Ignacio CO
Jeff Richmond, Ignacio CO
Susan Franzheim, Ignacio CO
Caryl Schmid, Ignacio CO
Carol Thiele, Ignacio CO
Ralph and Genevieve Phelps, Ignacio CO
Ken Beck, Ignacio, CO
Marian Nobles, Durango, CO
Marjorie and Ross Smith, Ignacio, CO
Marikay Shellman, Bayfield, CO
Ralph Klosman, Ignacio, CO
Ralph Phelps, Ignacio, CO
Lewis Luchini, Ignacio, CO
Joan McCaw, Ignacio, CO
Tiffany Draw Ranch, Ignacio, CO

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